Effective Date: October 26, 2022

CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM OCTOBER 2022 AS NATIONAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH AND RESOLUTION OPPOSING CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS BALLOT INITIATIVES 300 AND 301

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. 25-1-508 (5)(a), the El Paso County Board of Health ("Board") has the authority to develop and promote public policies needed to secure the conditions necessary for a healthy community; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Fair Campaign Practices Act, specifically, C.R.S. § 1-45-117(1)(b)(III), the Board may pass a resolution and take a position on any ballot measure, question, or referred measure; and

WHEREAS, the mission of El Paso County Public Health is to promote and protect public health and environmental quality across El Paso County through people, prevention and partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the vision of El Paso County Public Health is for all El Paso County residents to live in thriving communities where every person has the opportunity to achieve optimal health; and

WHEREAS, National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, observed each October since 2011, highlights the vital role of substance abuse prevention in both individual and community health; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse affects millions of Americans and includes underage drinking, alcohol dependency, non-medical use of prescription drugs such as Fentanyl, abuse of over-the-counter medications, and abuse of psychedelic substances such as psilocybin mushrooms; and

WHEREAS, youth marijuana use has also become an increasing issue of concern in Colorado, particularly since 2014 when legal retail marijuana sales began; in 2021, calls to Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Safety regarding exposure to a marijuana product among children 5 years of age and older constituted 48.7% of calls, up from 17.0% of calls in 2014; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that, for adolescents and young adults, marijuana use can be associated with suicidal thoughts or suicide attempts, weekly marijuana use is associated with deficits in cognitive and academic abilities, even 28 days after last use, and use of marijuana with higher THC concentration (>10% THC) is associated with continued use and future mental health symptoms and disorders1; and

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WHEREAS, evidence also shows that adolescents who use marijuana can become addicted to marijuana, and that marijuana use in adolescents and young adults is associated with future use and use disorder for tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs\(^2\); and

WHEREAS, El Paso County Public Health provides valuable and accurate information and resources on its website to El Paso County regarding substance abuse prevention, focusing on youth substance abuse and opioid abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Board encourages individuals and families to educate themselves about the risks of substance abuse and to avail themselves of the community resources available for substance abuse information, prevention, and treatment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the El Paso County Board of Health that the month of October 2022 is proclaimed as “National Substance Abuse Prevention Month” in El Paso County, Colorado.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the El Paso County Board of Health opposes City of Colorado Springs ballot initiatives 300 and 301.

Moved, seconded, and adopted by the El Paso County Board of Health at its meeting held on October 26, 2022 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

BY:  
Dr. James Terbush, President

ATTEST:  
Susan Wheelan, Secretary

\(^2\) Id.